A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the Year 1898.

To the Leyburn Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

At this time I have the pleasure to lay before you my annual report being the twenty-third time I have done so. With it I lay before you the Tabular statements of Births and Deaths in each Township compiled from the monthly returns of the Registrars from the two districts. To begin with I am sorry to say that the year 1898 although on the whole fine has not been a satisfactory one. The early months were mild followed by a dry cold spring, this again was followed by a slight rainfall and afterwards by intense heat. In the late autumn we had heavy rain and mild windy weather. In the meantime we had a good hay harvest and also a good corn harvest. But for all that we have not had a healthy year, although on the whole the weather was warm. January and March gave the greatest number of Deaths. In January especially the old people seem to have suffered most, five having died over 7C and five over 8C years of age. March was also fatal to old people, three over 7C and four over 8C, deaths being recorded. We expect the old people to die off in the spring and it is a good sign that they live so long. One death

is reported in November over 9C years. I will take the cases of disease and death as they come in the Tabular form. Scarlatina accounted for two deaths. This disease was not very prevalent, and as a rule of a very mild form. Cf Diphtheria and Typhoid fever no cases of death were reported and none notified. This is very satisfactory. Three cases of Death occurred after Confinement a disease which I am always sorry to hear of. Two or three cases of Erysipelas were notified but no fatal cases. Measles was very prevalent in the whole district. The schools were closed in many places owing to this disease. I do not know that closing the Schools is a means of stopping the mischief. The children play with each other in the street, but in the meantime they are breathing fresh air and this enables them to bear the disease better than they would do if confined in a close room. Cne death occurred from this desease. The same remarks apply to Whooping Cough. Three deaths were caused by diarrhoea, this I attribute to errors in feeding, all in children under five years of age. Eight deaths were caused by Phthisis or Consumption. This disease has been proved to be infectious and the sooner this is known the better. Bronchitis and Pneumonia accounted for ten deaths and ten were accounted for by Heart disease. These two show a heavy death-rate. Influenza was the cause of six deaths, but it may have been the cause of other diseases originally. The other deaths were not due to anything calling for special notice. Ten inquests were held during the year.

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Eighteen people lived to be over seventy years of age. Twenty-four over eighty years and one over ninety years, being forty-three over 7C years. This shows a good vitality. The death rate was 17-33 per 1CCC. We ought only to have 12. or 13. per 1CCC. The Birth rate was 21.33 per 1CCC being a little over the average. I would call attention to the large Infantile mortality, fourteen under one year. I think this is partly due to the overcrowding which exists and also to the anaemic condition of the Mothers, which does not allow them to nourish their children. Eight died under five and four under fifteen years of age. I would also call attention to the three cases after confinement and also to the number of cases of Heart disease. This latter I am afraid may be in part due to Influenza. The Sanitary state of the District has been fairly good. The water supply has been attended to in most places. Harmby and Linghall are still crying out for good water. In the latter place especially during the dry summer, the people were practically without water. I believe something will be done shortly. Castle Bolton water supply failed, but has been remedied. West Serafton is now supplied with good water. Leyburn is slowly adopting a plan for draining the town. Cn the whole I think we have not much to complain of. Your Sanitary Inspector deals with nuisances as they come before him and if necessary brings them to your notice.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Medical Cfficer of Health.

February 3rd. 1899.